

# CONTROLLER STEVE WESTLY

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA

300 Capitol Mall  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916.445.2636  
[www.controller.ca.gov](http://www.controller.ca.gov)

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CONTACT: RUSS LOPEZ  
916-445-2636

## Westly Urges San Diego Residents to Look for Their Share of \$4.8 Billion in Unclaimed Property

**EDS: PHOTOS AND B-ROLL ARE AVAILABLE**

**SAN DIEGO** – California State Controller Steve Westly today continued his statewide campaign to return \$4.8 billion to the 7.6 million Californians it belongs to by urging San Diego residents and businesses to log on to his new Web sites [www.searchthevault.com](http://www.searchthevault.com) and [www.encuentresudinero.com](http://www.encuentresudinero.com).

“You can search 7.6 million accounts on [www.searchthevault.com](http://www.searchthevault.com), so the odds are very good that you will find money that belongs to you or someone you know,” Westly said. “It’s not just individuals who’ve lost money. The state is also holding 1.1 million accounts belonging to small businesses, too.”

The state is holding almost \$61 million belonging to more than 217,000 San Diego residents. Westly went to San Diego’s Little Italy *Piazza Basilone* where he delivered thousands of dollars to the rightful owners.

When a bank account or safe deposit box is not accessed for more than 3 years and the bank cannot find the owner, the account balance or box contents are turned over to the Controller's Office for safekeeping. The Controller's Office holds the property in perpetuity, so a property owner or heir can make a claim at any time.

The Controller's Office also receives the value of un-cashed cashier’s checks and money orders; stocks and bonds; paychecks that were never picked up; overpaid utility bills and insurance premiums; and brokerage, escrow and other account balances.

Westly displayed rare coins, diamond jewelry and other items that he is trying to return to owners. He also helped people find their money on [www.searchthevault.com](http://www.searchthevault.com).

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